



S/N 09/843,637

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	S. MARUKAWA ET AL.	Examiner:	C. CHANEY
Serial No.:	09/843,637	Group Art Unit:	1745
Filed:	APRIL 26, 2001	Docket No.:	10873.703US01
Title:	COMBINED BATTERY		

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4.11.3

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on April 1, 2003.

By: Gina Rust
Name: Gina Rust

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Box NON-FEE AMENDMENT
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 8, 2003, please amend the above-identified application.

In the Claims

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A combined battery comprising two end plates and a plurality of cells stacked adjacent each other and bound by the two end plates,
- wherein the cells are provided with a battery container made of resin, and
- the plurality of cells are bound by the two end plates with a binding force equal to or lower than a threshold value determined based on a number and a compressibility of the cells and stiffness of the battery container, in such a manner that no more than a predetermined amount of irreversible deformation will be caused in the battery container during use.